his own Integrity. He ſhould rather be pleaſed, to find People deſcanting upon his Actions, becauſe when they are thoroughly canvaſſed and examined, they are ſure in the End to turn to his Honour and Advantage. The reaſonable and unprejudiced Part of Mankind will be of his Side, and rejoyce to ſee their common Intereſt lodged in ſuch honeſt Hands. A ſtrict Examination of a great Man's Character, is like the Trial of a ſuſpected Chaſtity, which was made among the *Jews* by the Waters of Jealouſy. *Moſes* aſſures us that the Criminal burſt upon the drinking of them; but if ſhe was accuſed wrongfully, the *Rabbins* tell us, they heighten'd her Charms, and made her much more amiable than before: So that they deſtroyed the Guilty, but beautified the Innocent.

N°. 18. *Monday, February* 20.

——*Inopem me Copia fecit.* Ovid.

EVery *Engliſhman* will be a good Subject to King *George*, in Proportion as he is a good *Engliſhman*, and a Lover of the Conſtitution of his Countrey. In Order to awaken in my Readers the Love of this their Conſtitution, it may be neceſſary to ſet forth its ſuperior Excellency to that Form of Government, which many wicked and ignorant Men have of late Years endeavour'd to introduce among us. I ſhall not therefore think it improper to take Notice from Time to Time of any particular Act of Power, exerted by thoſe among whom the Pre-

tender to His Majeſty's Crown has been educated; which wou'd prove fatal to this Nation, ſhou'd it be Conquer'd and Govern'd by a Perſon, who, in all Probability, wou'd put in Practice the Politicks in which he has been ſo long inſtructed.

There has been nothing more obſervable in the Reign of His preſent *Gallick* Majeſty, than the Method he has taken for ſupplying his Exchequer with a neceſſary Sum of Money. The Ways and Means for raiſing it has been an Edict, or a Command in Writing ſigned by himſelf, to encreaſe the Value of *Louis d' Ors* from Fourteen to Sixteen *Livres*, by Virtue of a new Stamp which ſhall be ſtruck upon them. As this Method will bring all the Gold of the Kingdom into his Hands, it is provided by the ſame Edict that they ſhall be payed out again to the People at Twenty *Livres* each; ſo that Four *Livres* in the Score by this Means accrue to His Majeſty out of all the Money in the Kingdom of *France*.

This Method of raiſing Money is conſiſtent with that Form of Government, and with the repeated Practice of their late *Grand Monarque*; ſo that I ſhall not here conſider the many evil Conſequences which it muſt have upon their Trade, their Exchange, and publick Credit: I ſhall only take Notice of the whimſical Circumſtances a People muſt lie under, who can be thus made poor or rich by an Edict, which can throw an Alloy into a *Louis d' Or*, and debaſe it into half its former Value, or, if His Majeſty pleaſes, raiſe the Price of it, not by the Acceſſion of Metal, but of a Mark. By the preſent Edict many a Man in *France* will ſwell into a Plumb, who fell ſeveral Thouſand Pounds

ſhort

ſhort of it the Day before its Publication. This conveys a Kind of *Fairy* Treaſure into their Cheſts, even whilſt they are under Lock and Key; and is a Secret of Multiplication without Addition. It is natural enough however for the Vanity of the *French* Nation to grow inſolent upon this imaginary Wealth, not conſidering that their Neighbours think them no more Rich by Virtue of an Edict to make Fourteen Twenty, than they wou'd think 'em more formidable ſhould there be another Edict to make every Man in the Kingdom Seven Foot high.

It was uſual for his late Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty to ſink the Value of their *Louis d' Ors* about the Time he was to receive the Taxes of his good People, and to raiſe them when he had got them ſafe into his Coffers. And there is no Queſtion but the preſent Government in that Kingdom, will ſo far obſerve this Kind of Conduct, as to reduce the Twenty *Livres* to their old Number of Fourteen, when they have paid them out of their Hands; which will immediately ſink the preſent Timpany of Wealth, and re-eſtabliſh the natural Poverty of the *Gallick* Nation.

One cannot but pity the melancholy Condition of a Miſer in this Countrey, who is perpetually telling his *Livres*, without being able to know how Rich he is. He is as ridiculouſly puzzled and perplexed as a Man that counts the Stones on *Salisbury-Plain*, which can never be ſettled to any certain Number, but are more or fewer every Time he reckons them.

I have heard of a young *French* Lady, a Subject of *Louis* the Fourteenth, who was contracted to a Marquis upon the Foot of a Five Thouſand Pound Fortune, which ſhe had by her in

Specie; but one of theſe unlucky Edicts coming out a Week before the intended Marriage, ſhe loſt a Thouſand Pound, and her Bridegroom into the Bargain.

The Uncertainty of Riches is a Subject much diſcourſed of in all Countries, but may be inſiſted on more emphatically in *France* than any other. A Man is here under ſuch a Kind of Situation, as One who is managed by a Jugler. He fancies he has ſo many Pieces of Money in his Hand; but let him graſp them never ſo carefully, upon a Word or two of the Artiſt they encreaſe or dwindle to what Number the Doctor is pleaſed to name.

This Method of lowering or advancing Money, we, who have the Happineſs to be in another Form of Government, ſhould look upon as an unwarrantable Kind of Clipping and Coining. However, as it is an Expedient that is often practiſed, and may be juſtify'd in that Conſtitution which has been ſo thoroughly ſtudied by the Pretender to His Majeſty's Crown, I do not ſee what ſhould have hinder'd him from making Uſe of ſo expeditious a Method for raiſing a Supply, if he had ſucceeded in his late Attempt to dethrone His Majeſty, and ſubvert our Conſtitution. I ſhall leave it to the Conſideration of the Reader, if in ſuch a Caſe the following Edict, or ſomething very like it, might not have been expected.

'WHereas theſe our Kingdoms have long 'groaned under an expenſive and con-
'ſuming Land-War, which has very much ex-
'hauſted the Treaſure of the Nation, we, be-
'ing willing to increaſe the Wealth of our Peo-
'ple, and not thinking it adviſable for this Pur-
'poſe

'poſe to make Uſe of the tedious Methods of 'Merchandiſe and Commerce, which have 'been always promoted by a Faction among 'the worſt of our Subjects, and were ſo wiſe-'ly diſcountenanc'd by the beſt of them in the 'late Reign, do hereby Enact by our ſole Will 'and Pleaſure, that every Shilling in *Great-'Britain*, ſhall paſs in all Payments for the Sum 'of fourteen Pence, till the firſt of *September* 'next, and that every other Piece of Money 'ſhall riſe and paſs in current Payment in the 'ſame Proportion. The Advantage which will 'accrue to theſe Nations by this our Royal Do-'native, will viſibly appear to all Men of ſound 'Principles, who are ſo juſtly famous for their 'Antipathy to Strangers, and would not ſee 'the Landed Intereſt of their Countrey wea-'ken'd by the Importations of Foreign Gold 'and Silver. But ſince by Reaſon of the great 'Debts which we have contracted Abroad, du-'ring our fifteen Years Reign, as well as of 'our preſent Exigencies, it will be neceſſary 'to fill our Exchequer by the moſt prudent 'and expeditious Methods, we do alſo hereby 'order every one of our Subjects to bring in 'theſe his fourteen-penny Pieces, and all the 'other current Caſh of this Kingdom, by what 'new Titles ſoever dignified or diſtinguiſhed, 'to the Maſter of our Mint, who, after having 'ſet a Mark upon them ſhall deliver out to 'them, on or after the firſt of *September* afore-'ſaid, their reſpective Sums, taking only Four 'Pence for our ſelf for ſuch his Mark on e-'very Fourteen Penny Piece, which from hence-'forth ſhall paſs in Payment for Eighteen Pence, 'and ſo in Proportion for the reſt. By this Me-'thod, the Money of this Nation will be more